

## FOUR INQUIRIES ON TO FIND CAUSE OF CRASH

Engineer of Local Train Alleged  
to Have Passed Two Set  
Block Signals.

(Continued from First Page.)  
and the investigation was well under  
way by 11 a. m. behind closed doors.

**May Blame Engineer.**  
W. R. Curtis, the dead engineer of  
the local train that crashed into the  
rear of the Connecticut River Special,  
seems likely to be blamed.

The local, it is alleged, passed two  
block signals which were set when the  
train ahead stopped because of a de-  
fective air hose.

While these reports were being in-  
vestigated from four sources, President  
Howard Elliott, of the New Haven, re-  
leased a statement regarding the wreck.  
"The volume of business the com-  
pany has been handling," he said, "has  
been far greater than ever before in its  
history and the facilities of the road  
have been severely strained in the  
trying to give service."

Curtis was employed in a statement  
by the New Haven today.  
"Engineer Curtis had been an en-  
gineer seven years with a fine rec-  
ord," says the statement. "He was a  
clean living, upright man. His  
fireman, McGinnis, would shortly  
have been promoted to engineer."

**Found Warning Still Set.**

C. H. Morrison and G. W. Chapple,  
of the New Haven's signal depart-  
ment, today reported they inspected  
the signals immediately after the  
wreck and found a warning still set  
to detain the local train. Chapple, it  
was stated, was a passenger on the  
local train and ran back along the  
tracks to inspect the signals as soon  
as he extricated himself from the  
wreckage.

The railroad paid a tribute to En-  
gineer Curtis, asserting that he had  
gone back 700 feet to warn the on-  
coming local, and "evidently was  
killed as he stooped to place tor-  
pedoes on the track."

The statement added that the  
brakes on the local train were found  
after the accident to be in perfect  
working order and that the death  
car, the twisted steel Pullman, was  
the most modern make.

Despite the fact that the principal  
witnesses are dead, Utilities Commis-  
sioner Elwell said the responsibility  
could be quickly ascertained. Engineer  
Curtis and Fireman Connors, of the  
local, and Fireman Tourtellotte, of the  
Connecticut River Special, were killed  
beneath the oncoming local, still  
waving his danger signal, were the  
witnesses referred to by Elwell. Tourtel-  
lotte was killed today as the martyred  
hero of the disaster.

Frank Schappa, a clerk in the local  
office of the New Haven, died of  
injuries today. He was terribly scalded  
by the bursting of the boiler when the  
local train's engine mounted over the  
steel Pullman of the stationer train.

Frank McNamara, of Ansonia, is in a  
New Haven hospital badly crushed, and  
is reported near death.

Wrecking crews are still tugging at  
the wild jumble of twisted steel plates  
and rails in an effort to clear the line.  
The fact that steel cars composed most  
of the passenger train, it is said, saved  
many lives.

Claims for personal damages will cost  
the New Haven \$500,000, according to  
representatives of the read at the  
scene of the wreck. Already more than  
\$25 claims have been presented and  
scores more are expected.

**To Probe Signal System.**  
The operation of the automatic stop  
signal system at the scene of the  
wreck, and immediately behind it will  
be given a critical examination. This  
system was installed after rigid tests  
directed by the Interstate Commerce  
Commission. Its installation was the  
subject of much testimony at the in-  
quiry into the North Haven wreck,  
September, 1915.

Commissioner Elwell expressed  
amusement that a rear-end collision  
could have happened at this point.  
His examination proved that the long  
sweeping curve just above Indian  
river did not prevent Engineer Curtis  
from a straightaway observation  
up to the point where the express  
train was stalled. The express was  
stopped almost one-quarter of a mile  
from the curve.

Railroad employees say the rear car  
of the express train was built of  
wood in a steel frame. Officials in-  
sist that the car was of steel con-  
struction. More passengers were in-  
jured in this car than in any other.

**Brakes Failed, Is Report.**

That the brakes on the local train,  
if applied by Curtis, did not grip be-  
fore the collision is said to be estab-  
lished by the injuries received by  
nearly a dozen passengers. These  
travelers all suffer from fractured  
jaws, caused when they were thrown  
face forward against seats ahead.  
The train was both behind their  
schedules. No. 5, the local, was eleven  
minutes late and the express  
thirteen minutes late.

The express left yesterday at 11  
o'clock and the local at 11:09. The  
local, having station stops, used the  
outer of the westbound tracks. The  
express, running on the inner track,  
passed the local, and at Woodmont  
was three minutes in the lead. It  
had been crossing over the outside  
track so that a freight could pro-  
ceed west on the inner track. This  
freight was buckled by the wreck-  
age. The official time shows that  
the express passed Woodmont at  
11:19 and the local went by at  
11:22. Beyond Woodmont is the curve  
on which at the westerly end the ex-  
press became stalled.

**Explosion Adds To Havoc.**  
A terrific explosion, which threw  
the boiler of No. 5 mixed local train  
100 feet, tossing it clear over the four  
tracks into a snowbank, added to the  
havoc. From this several passengers  
and trainmen received serious burns.

The passenger trains were well filled.  
The express from Brattleboro  
carried delegates to a convention of  
the Sons of the American Revolution  
to Bridgeport. The leading New Eng-  
land families were represented.

Officials of the New Haven railroad  
were among the travelers. The only  
dead woman, Miss Susan Hyland, of  
New Haven, was a stenographer in  
the famous Broadway building which  
houses the railroad officials here.

Her chum, Miss Minnie Schwartz,  
also a railroad stenographer from  
New Haven, is in the Bridgeport  
Hospital, badly burned and not ex-  
pected to recover. J. L. Hackett, chief  
rate clerk of the railroad, received  
serious lacerations to the head and  
is reported to be in a serious condi-  
tion at the Bridgeport Hospital.

**Had Tag For \$15,000 Gems.**  
An Armenian importer of jewels  
with offices in New York, among the  
dead, had an express tag in his pos-  
session for \$15,000 worth of pearls.  
His name is given as Naedrous Das  
Hochauzelau.

Patrick Connors, of New York, gave  
several street addresses before he  
died at Bridgeport Hospital. He was  
terribly hurt, his left leg being torn  
away above the knee in the collision.  
The Catholic sisters of the Academy

of Our Lady of Mercy, known as  
Laurelton Hall, at Milford, undoubtedly  
held down the death toll. They were at  
first-aid work. They were at dinner  
with their ninety little girl charges  
in Laurelton Hall, two blocks away,  
when the wreck took place.  
At the first call two sisters rushed  
to the station at Milford to direct rescue  
work. Eight others, directed by the  
mother superior, quickly transformed  
St. Agnes' cottage, a girls' dormitory,  
into a hospital. In less than a half  
a minute the beds were filled with  
terribly injured, while a score of doc-  
tors were in charge.  
Father Heller, the assistant in charge,  
hurried back from the scene of the  
wreck, where he had consoled the dying,  
to assist the seriously injured.

**Two Trains Carry Away Injured.**  
At 2:15 o'clock a train loaded with  
eighteen injured reached the Central  
avenue railroad yards in Bridgeport. It  
was there met by ambulances from St.  
Francis and the Bridgeport hospitals.  
Another special train had conveyed  
twenty injured to New Haven, where  
they were sent to St. Raphael's, Grace,  
and the New Haven General Hospital.

The special train had not torn up, but  
was covered with the ruins of the  
engine and freight cars. Heavy iron  
bars were twisted like wire and steel  
wires and rear coach of No. 5 were  
ripped apart.

All around lay the furnishings of the  
coaches, appliances, and personal be-  
longings of passengers. Snow beside the  
tracks was stained with blood.  
The rear coach of the express, split  
wide open, was thrown across the  
moving freight, crushing these cars  
partly and then falling over the  
outboard track.

Not a coach of the express escaped  
injury. The forward cars being jammed  
together, the windows smashed, and  
showing the terrific force of the im-  
pact. The baggage car of No. 5 was  
partly open, and then falling over the  
outboard track.

**Track Blocked For Hours.**  
For several hours the track was com-  
pletely blocked. Later the big wreck-  
ers from New Haven and Bridgeport,  
with their powerful steam cranes, be-  
gan to remove the wreckage. A heavy  
steel car, which had been partly  
overturned, was lifted and dropped  
down the bank and trucks which had  
been wrenched from the coaches were  
placed on gondolas and hauled away,  
and the overturned coaches righted.

The make-up of the express was a  
heavy engine, three steel coaches, three  
Pullmans and then another steel coach  
added at New Haven.

The local had a smaller engine and  
five wooden coaches, three having been  
added at New Haven to accommodate  
the large number of persons bound for  
way points.

**QUAINT PLAYS GIVEN  
ON A SMALL STAGE**

Portmanteau Theater Delights  
Audiences of All Ages.

The Portmanteau Theater, under the  
direction of Stuart Walker, gave two  
performances at the Willard in the  
large ball room yesterday afternoon  
and evening.

The program for the afternoon, al-  
though designed principally for chil-  
dren, was given before an audience  
as quaint as the plays themselves. Old  
age, middle age, callow youth, pop-  
eyed little boys and girls sat entranced  
at the story of "The Triplet,"

"Nevertheless," and "Six Who Pass  
While the Lentils Boil."

Mr. Walker has trained a remark-  
able company of young people in the  
interpretation of small plays, repro-  
duced on a small stage. There are  
no footlights, but even if there were,  
these young players no doubt could  
successfully bridge the distance and  
achieve the same remarkable co-op-  
eration from the audience.

The evening performance was nota-  
ble for the production for the first  
time of the play "The Triplet," an  
English comedy, "Gammer Gurton's  
Needles."

With the exception of cuts of but a  
few lines according to Mr. Walker,  
this comedy is presented exactly as  
it was written several centuries ago.

"Six Who Pass While the Lentils  
Boil" was also given at night.

Both performances were for the  
benefit of Friendship House Associa-  
tion.

F. Y.

## THOUSANDS LOST IN ALEXANDRIA BLAZE

Washington Fire Department  
Sends Apparatus to Fight  
Flames on River Front.

ALEXANDRIA, Feb. 23.—Alexandria  
was visited by another disastrous river-  
front fire, believed to be the work of  
incendiaries, last night.

So threatening was the outlook around  
the large warehouses near King street  
and the Strand that assistance of the  
Washington fire department was called  
for and the big fire-boat, the Fire-  
fighter, was brought here.

The fire destroyed the three-story  
brick warehouse running from the  
Strand to Lee street, between King and  
Prince streets. The greater part of the  
building was occupied by its owner,  
Walter Roberts, as a feed and grain  
warehouse.

The Strand side was occupied by Rob-  
ert H. Hancock, commission merchant,  
the offices of the People's Steamboat  
Line, and Capt. William McKenney,  
cyster dealer.

The building was completely gutted  
and the contents are almost an entire  
loss. Walter Roberts was the heaviest  
loser, as the damage to the building is  
estimated at \$10,000 and the stock at  
\$15,000.

The fire started at 10:40 o'clock. An  
alarm was turned in by Charles Foley,  
a watchman, employed by Henry K.  
Field & Co.

One of the first to see the blaze was  
William Rupp, a miller, employed by  
H. F. Burroughs & Sons. When he  
noticed the fire the flames were break-  
ing out of an iron grating on the  
south side of the building, near the  
center of the first floor. In this part  
of the building is stored hay and  
cotton seed meal. Yesterday being a  
holiday, this portion of the building had  
not been entered during the day.

**Fire Engine Disabled.**  
The entire fire department of Alex-  
andria was called out and soon had a  
dozen streams playing on the burning  
structure. The new gasoline fire en-  
gine was placed on the Norfolk boat  
wharf, but after being in service for  
nearly an hour was disabled, the mud  
sucked from the river clogging its pipes.

After the new engine retired William  
Deamond, acting chairman of the Alex-  
andria fire committee, decided to ask  
for assistance from Washington, and  
the "Firefighter" was promptly sent.  
Two streams from the boat were played  
on the flames, and the fire was soon  
under control.

The flames from the fire, shooting  
high in the air, lighted up the sky for  
miles. Many Washingtonians, attracted  
by the glare, came here to watch the  
blaze.

The annual banquet of the Alexan-  
dria-Washington Lodge of Masons was  
in progress at the time the fire start-  
ed, and many of the banqueters, con-  
nected with the volunteer fire service  
or owning property in the vicinity of  
the fire, left the tables. Hundreds of  
Alexandrians thronged the scene, and  
it was with difficulty that the police  
kept them at a safe distance.

Miss Melissa M. Ogden, daughter of  
the late Andrew J. and Martha Ogden,  
died early today at her home, 19 South  
Henry street. Her funeral will take  
place Friday at 3 o'clock, from the resi-  
dence of her sister, Mrs. John Beckham,  
913 Prince street. In addition to Mrs.  
Beckham, Miss Ogden leaves two sisters,  
Miss Jennie Ogden, of this city, and  
Mrs. Alice Sears, of Washington, and  
one brother, William D. Ogden, of  
this city.

**Water Hearing Set.**  
The State corporation commission  
has set March 25, at 10 o'clock, for  
the commencement of the hearing on  
the petition of a number of water  
consumers of this city against the  
Alexandria Water Company, asking

better water, lower rates, and a mod-  
ification of the present rules of the  
company.

The hearing will be held in Rich-  
mond, but the commission announces  
that in case it develops during the  
hearing that it is necessary that the  
commission meet in Alexandria or  
that an investigation is needed here  
of conditions of the water supply it  
will be ordered.

Advices fixing the time of the hear-  
ing were received this morning by  
Howard W. Smith, attorney for the  
water consumers. In the communication  
from the commission it was  
stated that it will not be necessary  
with a large number of witnesses  
in Richmond, as their depositions can  
be taken here and forwarded to the  
commissioners, who will have them  
read at the hearing.

A meeting of the water consumers  
will be held tomorrow night at 7:30  
o'clock in the office of Attorney  
Smith, 107 North Fairfax street, to  
which all users of water in the city,  
whether or not they have signed the  
petition, are invited.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Sterling died yes-  
terday at the Alexandria Hospital.  
Her body was taken to the home of  
her daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Hall,  
114 South Fairfax street, from which  
place a funeral will take place.  
Mrs. Sterling was sixty-seven years  
old, and a native of Westmoreland  
county.

Governor Stuart has appointed C.  
Keith Carlin, of this city, a notary  
public.

**Miss Mansfield Dead.**  
Miss Annie E. Mansfield, eighty-two  
years old, died yesterday at the home  
of her nephew, Thomas F. Jacobs, 509  
South Lee street.

Joseph L. Crupper was nominated by  
acclamation for the House of Represen-  
tatives in the November election by the  
Republicans of the Eighth Congress-  
ional district whose convention was  
held here yesterday afternoon. John B.  
Grayson, of Fauquier county, was elect-  
ed delegate to the State convention.

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William Rupp, a miller, employed by  
H. F. Burroughs & Sons. When he  
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south side of the building, near the  
center of the first floor. In this part  
of the building is stored hay and  
cotton seed meal. Yesterday being a  
holiday, this portion of the building had  
not been entered during the day.

**Elks To Give Dance.**  
Alexandria Lodge of Elks will give a  
dance tomorrow night from 8 to 12  
o'clock in the Elks' auditorium.

The annual sessions of the Washing-  
ton Masonic National Memorial Associa-  
tion were brought to a close yester-  
day afternoon, and the members who  
have been here since Sunday have re-  
turned home.

James R. Johnson, past grand master  
of South Carolina, was elected first vice  
president to succeed the late James M.  
Lamberton, of Pennsylvania; James E.  
Dillon, of Michigan, became second vice  
president; George L. Schooner was  
advanced from third vice president to  
third vice president, and Melvin M.  
Johnson, grand master, Massachusetts,  
was chosen fourth vice president.

The association went to Mt. Vernon  
yesterday afternoon. The tomb was  
opened, and a wreath placed in the  
sarcophagus containing Washington's  
remains by Grand Masters Dillon, of  
Michigan, and Johnson, of Massachusetts.  
The Rev. Alfred G. Pinkham, grand  
master of Minnesota, delivered  
the invocation.

The delegates were the guests at the  
banquet last night given by Alexandria-  
Washington Lodge of Masons. Speeches  
were made by Congressmen Gardner  
and Morrison, Walter S. Seipp, grand  
senior warden of Maryland, and Grand  
Master Cabell, of Virginia.

## HONEYMOON SHORT, ASSERTS MISKNOFF

Russian Prince Says Heir-  
ess Wife Early Reproached Her-  
self for Wedding Him.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The Princess  
Misknoff, formerly the California  
heir-ess, Almee Crocker, realized the  
folly of marrying the dapper young  
Prince Misknoff, many years her  
junior, almost before they had been  
married, the prince testified today.

In Paris, he said, the princess repeat-  
edly accused him of being in love with  
his fifteen-year-old foster-daughter,  
Yvonne Gouraud. Finally, in Switzer-  
land, she told him, he swore today:

"Oh, why did I ever marry you when  
I was so much older? How much better  
it would have been had you married  
Yvonne."

On re-direct examination, the prince  
declared time and again that his love  
for Yvonne was that of a father for  
his daughter.

"I only kissed her hands," he said,  
emphatically, "but that was nothing.  
I always kiss the hands of all the ladies  
in the room."

**Oldest Inhabitants  
Urge D. C. Armory**

Association Wants Congress to  
Provide Building for Na-  
tional Guard.

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants  
is on record in favor of the construc-  
tion of a National Guard armory, at  
Thirteenth and B streets northwest.

Resolutions were passed yesterday  
urging Congress to appropriate for this  
project and copies of the resolution will  
be sent to the Senate and House and  
to the President.

The resolution quotes the constitu-  
tion, which states: "A well regulated  
militia is necessary to the security of  
a free state and cities George Wash-  
ington's statement that the militia 'ought  
to possess a pride in being the de-  
pository of the force of the republic  
and make it a source of national  
energy equal to every military exigency  
of the United States.'"

A tribute is paid to the National  
Guard of the District as "composed of  
volunteers well armed, uniformed and  
equipped, and by discipline and drill  
equal to the best of the regular army  
in the defense of American institutions."  
To properly train this body of troops,  
it is stated, an armory is essential.

**William Nelson, Court  
Employee, Buried Today**

The funeral of William Nelson, col-  
ored, for more than twenty years an  
employee of the United States marshal's  
office, was held today at Fairfax  
Court House.

Mr. Nelson died suddenly Saturday  
night at his home in W street north-  
west.

He was appointed to the marshal's  
office during the term of President  
Cleveland and served most under all  
Administrations since. His death is the  
source of general regret about the City  
Hall, where his manner had made him  
a favorite with attaches of the build-  
ing and members of the District bar.

**Mt. St. Mary's Alumni  
To Hold Banquet Tonight**

The Rt. Rev. B. J. Bradley, president  
of Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmits-  
burg, Md., and other members of the  
alumni are expected to attend the an-  
nual dinner of the Washington alumni of  
the college at the Powhatan tonight.

Officers of the local alumni are Leo  
P. Stock, president; Frank M. Ward,  
vice president; Walter J. Tharp, sec-  
retary and treasurer, and Daniel W.  
Baker, James Francis Smith and Rich-  
ard M. Malone, members of the execu-  
tive committee.

## HIBERNIANS URGE REFERENDUM HERE

Board of Directors Want Peo-  
pel to Vote on Proposition of  
Prohibition.

Referendum of the question of prohibi-  
tion for the District is urged by the  
District Ancient Order of Hibernians  
in a petition sent to both houses of  
Congress. This petition follows resolu-  
tions passed by the District board of  
the Hibernians at a recent meeting.

The resolution follows:  
"Whereas, a number of bills provid-  
ing absolute prohibition for the city  
of Washington are now pending in the  
United States Senate and House of  
Representatives, and

"Whereas, these measures are in-  
tended by act of Congress to destroy  
the freedom of conscience, the liberty  
of individual citizens and their in-  
herent rights, and

"Whereas, the District board, repre-  
senting the Ancient Order of Hiber-  
nians, a liberty-loving organization  
of American citizens in the city of  
Washington, having homes and fam-  
ilies living in all parts of the Dis-  
trict, hereby protests against the pas-  
sage of such legislation; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That in regular meeting  
assembled, we, the District board of  
the Ancient Order of Hibernians of  
the District, petition Congress in  
favor of a referendum on the prohibi-  
tion question before any prohibi-  
tion law be enacted for this District,  
and, be it further

"Resolved, That copies of these resolu-  
tions be sent to the members of  
the Senate and House of Representa-  
tives."

**Church Workers Meet.**

A series of "personal workers" confer-  
ences is to be held Wednesday eve-  
nings for seven weeks, beginning next  
week, at the Eckington Presbyterian  
Church.

Dr. Brimble, pastor, will con-  
duct the conferences. A week of  
social service work events, except  
Saturday, will follow the conferences.

**A Sensible  
Cigarette**

**FATIMA**  
TURKISH BLEND CIGARETTES  
20 for 15¢

**William Nelson, Court  
Employee, Buried Today**

The funeral of William Nelson, col-  
ored, for more than twenty years an  
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## DRINK WATER TO AVOID SICKNESS

SAYS AUTHORITY

Glass of hot water before  
breakfast daily keeps the  
doctor away.

Sanitary science has of late made  
rapid strides with results that are of  
untold blessing to humanity. The latest  
application of its untiring research is  
the recommendation that it is as neces-  
sary to attend to internal sanitation as  
the drainage system of the human body  
as it is to the drains of the house.

Those of us who are accustomed to  
feel dull and heavy when we arise,  
splitting headaches, stuffy from a cold,  
flat tongue, nasty breath, acid stomach,  
can, instead, feel as fresh as a daisy by  
opening the sluices of the system each  
morning and flushing out the whole of  
the internal poisonous, stagnant mat-  
ter.

Everyone, whether ailing, sick or well,  
should, each morning before breakfast,  
drink a glass of real hot water with a  
teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it  
to wash from the stomach, liver, and  
bowels the previous day's indigestible  
waste, sour bile, and poisonous toxins;  
thus cleansing, sweetening, and purify-  
ing the entire alimentary canal before  
putting more food into the stomach.

The action of hot water and limestone  
phosphate on an empty stomach is won-  
derfully invigorating. It cleans out all  
the sour fermentations, gases, waste,  
and acidity and gives one a splendid  
appetite for breakfast. While you are  
enjoying your breakfast the phosphated  
hot water is quietly extracting a large  
volume of water from the blood and  
getting ready for a thorough flushing of  
the inside organs.

The millions of people who are bor-  
tered with constipation, biliousness,  
stomach trouble, and poisonous toxins;  
others who have sallow skins, blood  
disorders and a caky complexion are  
urged to get a quarter pound of such  
limestone phosphate from the drug store.  
This will cost very little, but is suffi-  
cient to make anyone a pronounced  
drank on the subject of internal sanita-  
tion.—Adv.

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Hall, where his manner had made him  
a favorite with attaches of the build-  
ing and members of the District bar.

**Mt. St. Mary's Alumni  
To Hold Banquet Tonight**

The Rt. Rev. B. J. Bradley, president  
of Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmits-  
burg, Md., and other members of the  
alumni are expected to attend the an-  
nual dinner of the Washington alumni of  
the college at the Powhatan tonight.

Officers of the local alumni are Leo  
P. Stock, president; Frank M. Ward,  
vice president